

TO SAY THANK YOU TO OFFICER CHESTNUT AND SPECIAL AGENT GIBSON

(Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say thanks to Capitol Police Officer Jacob Chestnut and Special Agent John Gibson for being there when we needed them the most.

I really shudder to think of how much worse this tragedy could have been if these two men had not been there to make the ultimate sacrifice at their posts.

Today, as we honor them, I want to take a moment to recognize the reassuring presence of the Capitol Police who guard their institution with their lives every day. Thank you.

As Friday's events so vividly demonstrated, without you, the exercise of democracy in this House, the People's House, would not be possible. You do a great service to your country. I ask for God's blessing to the family, to friends, to the other officers in this time of tragic loss.

#### DUTY, HONOR, COUNTRY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BURR of North Carolina). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. BURR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Special Agent John Gibson, Officer Jacob "J.J." Chestnut, duty, honor, country.

Many Members of Congress have expressed our collective grief over the loss of Special Agent Gibson and Officer J.J. Chestnut, but it is worth repeating over and over again. Officers, law enforcement, fire personnel over the country every year lose their lives helping all of us, American citizens. We should express our grief today and remember them as they remembered us, helping us through difficult situations. Condolences to the family. God bless you all.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. OXLEY).

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I also add my voice to the chorus of sympathy being sung on this day of mourning here at the Capitol for the Chestnut and Gibson families. To them we give thanks in the memory of their fallen heroes. We pray that their grief will be comforted.

They died protecting freedom and protecting the lives of all of us here in the Capitol. They died as any U.S. soldier would have in any war. It is now just to remember how much we appreciate and admire their leadership and their service, and we send our deepest sympathies to the family as we proceed to the memorial service in the Rotunda.

I thank the gentleman from California for yielding to me.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

IN TRIBUTE TO JACOB JOSEPH CHESTNUT AND JOHN MICHAEL GIBSON

(Mrs. MINK of Hawaii asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I join a mournful Nation to express my deepest sympathy to the families and loved ones of Officer Jacob Joseph Chestnut and Detective John Michael Gibson. These two brave and courageous officers gave their lives to the protection of Members of Congress, our staff and visitors who come to see the Capitol from all over the country.

On behalf of the people of the Second Congressional District of the State of Hawaii, I stand to pay tribute to the gallantry and bravery of these two men who lost their lives in the line of duty.

Many people from Hawaii visit the Capitol each year and have felt the assurance of safety provided by the dignified and diligent service of our Capitol Police. To learn that two of them died in the line of fire is shocking news everywhere in America.

I returned home to Hawaii the next day after the event to find that all of the people I saw received word of this terrible loss with a sense of personal loss. Everyone felt that their safety had been compromised with such an assault upon our House. The feeling of warmth and compassion for the families of the slain officers was deep and very moving.

As we reflect on these events, I realize how guilty we all are in taking for granted officers like Chestnut and Gibson who stand in the line of fire every day that they serve us here and in our home communities. I pray for their eternal peace and for the life and safety of every one of their colleagues who serve us here in the Nation's Capitol.

HONORING THE SACRIFICE OF JOHN MICHAEL GIBSON AND JACOB JOSEPH CHESTNUT

(Mr. MINGE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MINGE. Mr. Speaker, this last week of July, 1998, we honor Officers Gibson and Chestnut. We honor them for the ultimate sacrifice that they have made on behalf of this country and on behalf of this institution.

I join my many colleagues in all of their eloquent remarks. We certainly cannot be too eloquent to thank, compliment those officers and share with their families the bereavement of their loss.

On behalf of the people of the State of Minnesota, I wish to extend our condolences.

Finally, on behalf of the Members of this institution, I think it is fair to say

that we recognize a renewed obligation to meet the challenges that we face with the same dedication that the officers who have given their lives met their obligation.

I share in the comments of my colleague, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. WAMP) in the desire to see this institution work on a collegial basis in the months and years to come.

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, the attached transcript is of my radio address to the nation on Saturday, July 25, 1998. During this address, I discussed the tragic attack at the Capitol and the courage of those officers who responded to this tragedy. The officers who were killed—and all those who helped apprehend the gunman, assist the injured and evacuate the building—are true heroes of democracy, and every American owes them a deep debt of gratitude. They gave their lives to protect the lives of hundreds of tourists, staff, and Members of Congress. If not for their quick and courageous action, many innocent people would likely have been injured or killed. I submit the transcript to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

[Republican response to the President's Weekly Radio Address, July 25, 1998]

GINGRICH: Good morning. I'm Newt Gingrich, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives.

And I want to report to you on the tragic attack on the United States Capitol, your Capitol, on the professionalism of the Capitol police, on the heroic actions of two fine policemen who sacrificed their lives in defense of the Capitol, and in their sacrifice, saved many innocent lives.

I also want to talk briefly about their families, the tragic loss they've suffered and the loss that the entire Capitol Hill family has suffered.

And finally I want to emphasize that this building is the keystone of freedom, that it is open to the people because it is the people's building. And that no terrorist, no deranged person, no act of violence will block us from preserving our freedom and from keeping this building open to people from all over the world, and to every American who wants to come and visit the center of their self government.

This is the people's building. Up to 23,000 people a day visit this Capitol, their Capitol, to see their government at work, to stand in the shrine of freedom and teach their children—and we have many, many school children who visit on a regular basis.

But those who hate or fear freedom, sometimes seek to attack this Capitol and those in it precisely because they symbolize America, self government, authority and the process of freedom.

The Capitol police protect the Capitol as the Secret Service protects the White House. Each day thousands of people enter the Capitol and are greeted by our protectors and our ambassadors to the world. The thin blue line of the Capitol police, both provide safety and provides information.

Yesterday, as officer J.J. Chestnut was advising a visitor how to get to the subway, a deranged man tried to force his way into the Capitol. He killed Officer Chestnut and wounded Angela Dickerson, a visitor to the Capitol.

J.J. Chestnut's partner, who was getting a wheelchair to help a visitor, returned the gunman's fire. As the gunman fled, he ran into Whip Tom Delay's office and there exchanged fire with Officer John Gibson.

Officer Gibson, at the sacrifice of his own life, saved the lives of dozens of innocent

people in those offices, including Missy Jenkins, a member of my staff who said to me last night very emotionally, that—and she had even more trouble than I am saying this to you—that she really felt that Officer Gibson had died literally so she was alive.

Now, forgive me for my emotions, but these two men are genuine heroes. You see, they literally every day, knowingly and voluntarily, put their lives on the line. They understood that to be free, somebody had to be willing to take this risk.

In the case of J.J. Chestnut, a man who had served 20 years as an MP in the Air Force, his wife told me last night when I visited on behalf of the Congress and she said, that he was so proud to serve his country—seventeen years on the Capitol Police force, he was only two years away from retirement.

And I remember because that's the door I go in and out of every day, how often he would quietly but firmly insist that you go through the magnetometer, that you obey the rules, doing his job to protect this Capitol.

We should remember that Officer J.J. Chestnut is still here in the spirit with his wife, Gwenling. He has children—Joseph, Janice, Janet, Karen and William. And they remember. And I think each of you wants to join us in remembering this true hero.

In addition, Officer John Gibson had become a member of Tom DeLay's family. He had been assigned to protect the Majority Whip and Christina DeLay told me last night that they were so close. And Mrs. Gibson told me that he had enjoyed so much working in that close relationship, knowing that his job was to protect Tom DeLay and that he was doing something important for his country.

He responded immediately to the crisis. I was told by those in the room that he promptly told everyone to get down, close the doors, and he drew his gun as the gunman entered and they exchanged shots.

Officer Gibson's wife Evelyn and their three children Kristin, John and Daniel have a very large hole in their lives because their father, her husband, served his country.

And yet I hope of each of them will realize that he was a true hero, a hero in the deepest sense, a man who when confronted with danger, moved towards it to save others when he could have moved away.

As this was happening, the Capitol police were doing their job, responding immediately to the crisis, sealing off the perimeter, protecting the tourists, protecting the staffs and members who were around. A number of people responded and made it possible both to suppress the gunman and to save lives.

Dr. Eisell, the Capitol's attending physician and his staff, Dr. Bill Frist who is a Senator, had just finished presiding over the U.S. Senate went immediately to the scene and then went on to the emergency room.

The Washington D.C. Emergency Medical Service, including the D.C. Fire Department, MedStar at the Washington Hospital Center, the George Washington Hospital, the U.S. Park Police whose helicopter arrived to help save lives, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Washington Metropolitan Police Force, who promptly intervened in the investigation—again and again professional people did a professional job to make sure that your Capitol was safe and that the visitors and workers in it, were safe.

We can all be proud of them. But we can also do more.

We will be establishing a trust with the U.S. Capitol Police for the two families, and anyone who wishes to help—these are families who have sacrificed for their country and for freedom. And the U.S. Capitol Police Memorial Fund, which you can reach simply

by writing U.S. Capitol Police Memorial Fund, Washington, D.C., will be there for those who want to join and help.

But we must do more. Each of us everyday, should recognize that many people are in uniform in this country—the police, the Capitol police, the Secret Service, your local police, your local sheriff's office, your state police, the Border Patrol, the United States military—people who get up every morning and risk death because they want you to be safe. And because they believe that they and their children should share the freedom and the security that America has provided for over 200 years. We're not going to back off.

I want to thank the president both for his call last night, for his concern, for his statement this morning, for his plan to visit the families—it will mean a great deal to them.

I want to thank each of you who has called. The tourists I saw out front who are here to visit, the people who have been calling in to C-Span, all the people back home who have called Marianne and me. It does mean a lot to the Capitol Hill family when the American family comes together.

Let me close by asking you to join me for just a moment in prayer.

Dear God, please watch out over the Chestnut family and the Gibson family. Help them in their time of grief. Help them to come to understand, to be comforted by the love and the thanks of many, many grateful people. Help them to remember the heroes who they sacrificed for their country.

Please take to your bosom, Officer J.J. Chestnut, and Officer John Gibson. Please watch over all of us and watch over all who defend and protect us and keep us safe.

Please help this country learn to live with its freedom. Please help those who are troubled learn to live peacefully with their problems. Please help each of us as we strive to do our duty and to reach out to each other in this American family.

Please forgive us our sins, and bless America and the American people. Amen.

Thank you for allowing me to share this with you.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of southwest Florida, I would like to offer not only our deepest sympathy to the families of Officers Jacob Chestnut and John Gibson, but also our greatest admiration for the total professionalism and full sacrifice these men gave to protect the People's House and its visitors. Officer Chestnut and Officer Gibson truly understood exactly what the U.S. Capitol Building represents to the people of this country and to people everywhere. With honor and courage they stood their ground for the world to see.

Early one morning a while ago, as I neared the Capitol, I watched some visiting foreign tourists with tears of joy kiss the Capitol steps; to them this great building meant freedom and democracy. Now our friends, Jacob Chestnut and John Gibson, join so many other Americans paying unhesitatingly with their lives to defend us and our freedom.

And without question in this needless tragedy, they did save the lives of citizens, visitors, staff, and Members.

I also would like to thank and praise their fellow Capitol Police officers who dedicate their lives to defending our freedom. Their bravery and professionalism does not go unnoticed nor unappreciated. Their conduct in containing this tragedy and coping with its aftermath has been exemplary.

It really is "family" up here on Capitol Hill. We all have our own memories and associations of Officer J.J. Chestnut and Detective

John Gibson. J.J. pulled weekend guard duty on occasion for the House Intelligence Committee and served those of us on that committee well and faithfully. John was true family to JOE MOAKLEY, our distinguished former chairman and current ranking member on the Rules Committee. He was also a regular feature in the workings of our whip chores as deputy whips under TOM DELAY.

Other Members had other contacts with these officers but we are all of one mind in knowing J.J. and John will be missed—that we are deepful grateful for their lives and fiercely proud of their work and that, above all, all our sympathy and love go out to their families in a way that seeks to share the burden of their losses.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to pay tribute to two American heroes who have lived, worked, and now died in our midst. John Gibson and Jacob Chestnut epitomized the very finest in the tradition of public service and law enforcement.

Every day as we arrive at work and as we move about the Capitol Hill complex, we are greeted and protected by members of the Capitol Police force. They are not only our protectors, they are also an integral part of the Capitol Hill "family." We exchange stories of children and grandchildren, the news of the day, and the joys and pains of everyday life. They are our friends—indeed a part of our extended family.

It is easy to forget that their profession is a dangerous, life-threatening one. Seemingly endless hours of uneventful duty can be broken, without warning, by violent events.

Last Friday, Detective Gibson and Officer Chestnut answered the call to duty, and paid the ultimate sacrifice in performing their duty. Their presence and their actions saved countless lives of innocent people caught in the crossfire.

Mr. Speaker, it is completely right and fitting that we take this day to honor and remember the lives of John Gibson and Jacob Chestnut. They served their country with dignity, they performed their duty with integrity, and they gave their lives in the defense of our Capitol and our democracy. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families.

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I would like to pay tribute to Officers Jacob Joseph (J.J.) Chestnut and John Michael Gibson of the United States Capitol Police and extend my condolences to their families and colleagues. This is a solemn duty that I undertake on behalf of the hundreds of thousands of people who live in the sixth district of Maryland and elected me to represent them in the 105th Congress of the United States of America.

John Gibson and Jacob Chestnut were exemplary members of the thin blue line of the United States Capitol Police. The men and women in this law enforcement force protect and defend the most important symbol of our representative democracy, the magnificent Capitol building. Their joyful but anonymous and humble service touches and enriches the lives of thousands of their fellow Americans and visitors who work in or visit the Capitol on a daily basis. They serve and protect millions of us.

The excellence, quiet dignity, and anonymity that were the hallmarks of the careers of Officers Chestnut and Gibson was swept away in

a matter of seconds by a violent attack. The fury may have been directed by madness, but it is clear that this deliberately deadly attack was unleashed upon the Capitol because this building is open to everyone and is the most central and sacred symbol of our democratically elected government. Moreover, it is clear that members of the Capitol Police were the special and first targets of this assault.

I don't believe as human beings we will ever be able to understand why it was the fate of Officers Gibson and Chestnut to be called upon to face the fire that was unleashed during those moments of utter chaos. Officers Chestnut and Gibson instantly stepped into that awful breach. Without hesitation, they swiftly ended that attack and protected the lives of hundreds of others by willingly sacrificing their own lives.

It is fitting and proper, I believe it is our duty to honor their bravery and the courage of their sacrifice. Words are inadequate to express how grateful we as a nation are today to John Gibson and Jacob Chestnut. I believe President Abraham Lincoln perhaps said it best when he honored the fallen heroes at Gettysburg for "offering the last full measure of devotion" to preserving and protecting the cause of freedom and "government of, by, and for the people." Words are inadequate to express the condolences we as a nation pay to the Gibson and Chestnut families and to the members of the Capitol Police on the loss of their loved ones. We cannot erase their grief. We can only offer this small tribute to comfort them.

As a living tribute to the memories of Jacob Chestnut and John Gibson, I hope the Capitol will continue to remain open and accessible under the unsurpassed protection of our thin blue line, the United States Capitol Police. Our democratically elected government was attacked, but the thin blue line was not breached. The line held. Our freedom and liberty have been secured once more by the terrible and brave sacrifice of two good men.

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, this week, our Nation mourns the deaths of Capitol Hill policemen John Michael Gibson and J.J. Chestnut. In the aftermath of the shooting in the Capitol, as Members of Congress reflect on whether this event was avoidable, we must take responsibility for this and other acts of violence attributable to the mentally ill. The Capitol shooting was all too familiar an occurrence, a scene that has been played out in our schools, on our streets, our subways, and in homes throughout America.

The movement in the 1970's and 1980's to deinstitutionalize persons with mental disorders was not an unqualified success. It's time that we admit that closing the institutions did not negate the need for further care; the mentally ill still need consistent treatment and many of them are not getting it.

Two to three percent of the population experience severe mental disorders. Many more suffer from milder forms of mental illness. In almost every town, we see people on the street whose illness precludes them from working or connecting with other people in a meaningful way. Many of them could be helped with medication and therapy, but only if they had access to care.

We must provide that care. We can and must prevent future unnecessary violence so that other families do not have to endure what the Gibson and Chestnut families go through today.

Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I sadly join my many colleagues who have taken the floor to mourn the loss of Detective John Gibson and Officer J.J. Chestnut. I want to extend my deepest sympathy to their families and my thanks and appreciation, and that of the people I represent in Nebraska, for the ultimate sacrifice they have suffered.

The men and women who serve on the United States Capitol Police force guard our Capitol. They protect the people who serve and work here and the millions of visitors each year from across the country and around the world. They stand guard for the principles on which the nation was founded and which make this Capitol building such an attraction and source of pride. We pass them everyday as we enter and leave the Capitol and House and Senate office buildings, as we walk the hallways, and as we go about our business in our offices and committee rooms.

And until Friday, July 24, it had been all too easy to forget they came to work each day ready and willing to put their lives on the line for their job and their country. It will be a very, very long time before any of us again pass a Capitol Police officer and not remember John and J.J. and that they all put at risk their lives everyday.

Over the past two days, as Members have taken the floor to pay tribute to our two fallen heroes, there have been wonderful stories about both men. A story I'd like to share with my colleagues comes from one of my constituents, a farmer, from a town with a population of only 1,900 in the Nebraska Panhandle. The story speaks to how a dedicated man, who would be the first to say he was just doing his job, makes an impact and leaves behind a legacy.

Bob Busch, from Mitchell, Nebraska, first met Officer J.J. Chestnut in 1988. It was Bob's first trip to Washington, DC. Bob and a fellow Nebraskan were attending a meeting and reception in the Hart Senate Office Building. Neither of them had ever been inside the Capitol. On the way out of the reception, they asked how best to see the Capitol. They were told to go to a certain door at the Capitol and ask for Officer Chestnut.

At the door, Officer Chestnut answered their query and, even though it was late, offered to take them on a tour of the Capitol himself. That was the beginning of quite an evening—a complete behind-the-scenes tour of the Capitol—and a new friendship. Bob got to see things I'm not sure I've ever seen. Since that first tour in 1988, Bob has taken the time to seek out Officer Chestnut each time he's been in Washington. In 1995, he introduced his wife to J.J.

In addition to the tour, Bob and Officer Chestnut shared a love for this earth. Officer Chestnut was an avid gardener. Bob is a sugarcorn farmer. Bob recounted to me how Officer Chestnut was always interested in farming and how his operation was doing. Bob said Officer Chestnut had a real kinship with farmers. Bob called my office upon hearing that Officer Chestnut had lost his life in the line of duty. He said how much he admired Officer Chestnut, how personable he was, so tall and so proud, such a fine man who did his job.

Like all of us, Bob and his wife are grieving for Officer Chestnut and his family. And as we all know, there are countless stories similar to Bob's about both John and J.J. They touched many lives, and did so in a manner that can

only make their families proud knowing that it is not just their Capitol Hill family grieving, but that they have the sympathy and gratitude of people across the nation.

Nothing can ease their pain or lessen their loss, but an excerpt from a poem has always given me comfort:

The sun goes down, but gentle warmth still lingers on the land,  
The music stops, and yet it echoes on in sweet refrains.  
And reminds us that for every joy that passes, something beautiful remains.  
May the memories that remain bring you comfort and keep your loved one close at heart.

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Second Congressional District of Alabama, we extend our heartfelt sympathies to the families of Special Agent John Gibson and First Sergeant Jacob Chestnut. The heroism that these two men displayed in protecting the people's House cannot be overstated. They gave the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of the freedom's we Americans enjoy in our free and open society. The following editorial ran in today's Montgomery Advertiser reminds us that freedom is not free.

#### FREEDOM ISN'T FREE

##### OFFICERS GAVE LIVES FOR PUBLIC

Two men gave their lives Friday to once again prove what U.S. history has shown time and again—freedom isn't free.

When a gunman opened fire at the U.S. Capitol, two Capitol police officers, Jacob Chestnut and John Gibson, were killed.

They died while protecting the occupants of the Capitol and the public, which is in itself a noble sacrifice. But they also died protecting the public's freedom of access to its government, something U.S. citizens may enjoy to a greater extent than citizens of any other nation.

That is an essential freedom in a democratic nation. We suspect Officers Chestnut and Gibson were well aware of that. It makes their sacrifice all the more noble.

These officers deserve all the praise and honor a grateful nation can bestow upon them. But we doubt that any would have pleased them more than the reopening of the U.S. Capitol to citizens on Saturday.

It is only common sense for government authorities to review security measures at the Capitol and to take whatever reasonable steps are necessary to close breaches in that security.

But care needs to be taken that nothing is done to significantly limit the public's access to "America's house." If authorities overreact and make it difficult for the public to gain ready access to the halls of Congress, it would amount to capitulation to whatever insanity prompted this despicable act.

There were a lot of heroes Friday. Among them was U.S. Sen. Bill Frist of Tennessee, a heart surgeon who helped treat the injured. There were scores of tales of adults—parents and strangers—who used their bodies to shield children. There was also the quiet dignity of Sgt. Dan Nichols, who noticeably struggled to hold his emotions in check while ably serving as spokesman for the Capitol police.

But at the head of the list of heroes are Officers Chestnut and Gibson. They, like so many others before them, paid the ultimate price of freedom.

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, last Friday, July 24, 1998, is a day that none of us will ever forget for many reasons, but mostly for the heroism displayed by Officer Jacob J. Chestnut and Special Agent John M. Gibson.

Mere words cannot express our gratitude for their actions, our grief for their fates or our sorrow for their families.

To the families of Officer Chestnut and Special Agent Gibson, we offer our most heartfelt condolences and pray that God provides comfort and assurance to you in your time of need.

When the House of Representatives is in session, we enter this building many times a day. Usually, we offer a nod or an off-hand comment to the officers at the entrance and they respond in kind. Sometimes, we are in a rush or preoccupied and may not say anything. But it must be made clear that we appreciate the work these officers do.

So, to all of the officers of the Capitol Police force, all I can say is "Thank You." It's only a two-word phrase, but it means so much. You are not taken for granted. Our prayers are with you and for your continued safety.

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reiterate the special and heartfelt sentiments that many of my colleagues have been making during the past several days. Last Friday, July 24, 1998, United States Capitol Police Officers John Gibson and J.J. Chestnut payed the ultimate sacrifice defending our nation's Capitol. In a tragic moment, these two brave and courageous men gave their lives to defend and protect the safety and dignity of the United States Capitol.

Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson, although slain in a tragic moment, embody the very spirit that is the United States Capitol Police Force. Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson, without a second thought, put themselves in harms way to protect the lives of others. These men approached their jobs each day with the highest commitment, dedication, and honor. The brave men and their colleagues put their lives on the line each day knowing that the perils of danger may be just around the corner. But, without high praise or recognition, they do their jobs with incredible grace and extraordinary professionalism.

Although we, in the Capitol Hill family, have lost two close members, this institution and the freedom and democracy for which it stands will continue for those of us who work here and for the millions and millions of visitors who join us here each year. From the heroic efforts of Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson, the world will continue to look to the United States and the United States Capitol as the true symbol of freedom, liberty, and perseverance.

Mr. Speaker, for myself and my family, my staff, and the people of the Fifth Congressional District of Ohio, I rise to pay this most honorable tribute to Detective John Gibson and Officer J.J. Chestnut. To their families, friends, and colleagues, please know that their legacy of unwavering loyalty and supreme dedication will forever live in the hearts and minds of those who pass through these halls. On behalf of a grateful nation, we are eternally indebted. Our hearts and prayers are with you. God Bless you.

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the two Capitol Police Officers who gave their lives in the line of duty. Officer Jacob (J.J.) Chestnut and Officer John Gibson died protecting the freedoms of our nation. For that we owe them a debt of gratitude. The tragedy that transpired last Friday has shaken this nation. We will continue to mourn the loss of these two fine officers.

Officers Gibson and Chestnut died heroes. Because of them no visitors to this institution lost their lives. Because of Officers Chestnut and Gibson this Capitol Building remains open and safe. Officers Gibson and Chestnut gave the ultimate sacrifice. They remind us that our freedom can come at a personal cost. Let us be clear, they did not die in vain. Officers Gibson and Chestnut will forever be remembered for bravely defending the Capitol.

As a former law enforcement officer, I am especially saddened when a fellow officer's life is taken in an act of violence. I would like to express my sincere condolences to the families of Officers Jake (J.J.) Chestnut and John Gibson. Officer Gibson and Officer Chestnut will be missed.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, today is a sad day in the United States Capitol. The murder of two U.S. Capitol Policemen last Friday was a tragedy that words cannot convey. As legislators in the U.S. Congress, we are committed to making laws to protect the people and create a more peaceful society for all Americans. Today we gather in this Chamber to recognize the supreme sacrifice that those who are sworn to protect this institution may be called upon to make.

Officer Jacob Chestnut and Special Agent John Gibson are heroes who gave their lives to protect this institution. I join my colleagues in saluting these fallen officers—history will forever record the last acts of heroism to two of the Capitol's Finest.

My thoughts and prayers are with the families of Officer Chestnut and Agent Gibson. May time ease the burden of their loss and bring peace and understanding to all who have shared the sorrow of their untimely passing.

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in expressing my deepest sympathies to the families of Officer Jacob Chestnut and Special Agent John Gibson. I would like to also extend my sincere regrets to the members of the United States Capitol Police who have also lost two members of their family.

It is at times like this that we are reminded of the inadequacy of our language. How do we properly express our regret and sorrow to the wives of Officer Chestnut and Special Agent Gibson at the loss of their husbands? How do we share with their children the appreciation we feel for the valor displayed by their fathers? How do we share with the other officers of the Capitol Police our thanks and admiration at the bravery displayed by Officer Chestnut, Special Agent Gibson and their fellow officers for risking and giving their lives so others might live? Thank you, I'm sorry, brave, hero—all words that pale in the face of the loss of a husband, father, colleague, friend.

It has been said often in the last several days that freedom is not free. Since before the founding of our Nation, men and women have been willing to stand up and give their lives for their country and their countrymen. Often, this price has been paid on the fields of battle in distant places. We should not, however, diminish the price paid by these two men solely because they gave their lives here at home. The heroes of the past gave their lives in the defense of democracy. Special Agent Gibson and Officer Chestnut gave their lives in defense of democracy's house.

We are told that Officer Chestnut loved to work in his garden and share the fruits of his

labor with his friends and colleagues here on the Hill. I know the struggles and rewards of gardening. The frustration when a promising spring becomes a parched summer. The satisfaction that comes with a plentiful harvest. We are also told that Special Agent Gibson was a Red Sox fan. Sooner or later every Sox fan comes to know the age-old frustration of a promising season that disappears as July becomes August. And sooner or later, every Sox fan learns to take satisfaction in the hope that the Sox will make it next year for sure.

Today, the Nation will have the opportunity to pay their respects and express their sorrow and thanks. As we move on, we must not forget these two officers and their families. We must also remember those members of our Capitol Police—our own thin blue line—and the thousands of men and women all over our Nation who are willing to place themselves between their fellow citizens and danger.

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I want to join my colleagues in expressing my deep grief over the tragic loss of Officer Jacob Chestnut and Officer John Gibson who were lost last Friday in the line of duty. I know that the men and women of Ohio's 7th Congressional District share our grief and I know their thoughts and prayers, as are mine, are with the families and friends of these two officers.

I honor the long service of these two officers who died bravely while protecting our Nation's Capitol. Law enforcement is one of the highest forms of public service, and today we are reminded of our deep debt to those individuals who daily risk their lives to protect the public's safety.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Capitol Hill community and our country suffered a personal loss of two fine Capitol Police officers on Friday, July 24, 1998. On that afternoon, a lone gunman invaded the People's House and put many visitors, staffers and Members of Congress in danger and peril. If it were not for the sacrifices of Special Agent John Gibson and Officer Jacob "J.J." Chestnut, we would be mourning the passing of other human beings on this day.

On behalf of the constituents of the 30th Congressional District, I would like to extend my personal condolences to the families and friends of Detective Gibson and Officer Chestnut. While we take for granted the fact that such tragic incidents can happen to us, we must not take for granted the lives of those two Capitol Police officers who gave their lives so that we may live.

Mr. Speaker, the spirit and dedication of those officers will live on and truly embody what this place means. Our Capitol symbolizes service, duty and honor. Both the life and death of those officers were examples of those qualities. It is because of their duty and service, our work can go on. Indeed, it must. We cannot let an individual who is distrustful of our Government to allow our democracy to cease. Officers Gibson and Chestnut would not want our business to stop because of real or perceived threats to our system. Officers Gibson and Chestnut would not want us to cower and hide in fear of any group or individual who would seek to disrupt the proceedings of our Government in such violent methods.

One of the best tributes to those officers would be for all of us, staffers and Members, to be just as dedicated to service and duty as Officers Gibson and Chestnut were. I believe

that this will be the finest remembrance that we can offer.

Mr. Speaker, after the brief moments of chaos and tragedy, I received many calls from worried family members and friends inquiring about my whereabouts and safety at that moment. If not for the service of Officers Gibson and Chestnut, and the entire Capitol Police Force, I may not have been in the arms of safety, telling my family and friends that I was safe. We literally owe our lives to our two fallen officers, our friends whose heroism protected many others from harm and possible death.

Mr. Speaker, along with my condolences, I offer the families and friends of Officers Gibson and Chestnut my prayers and ask that our Lord give them the strength to deal with such a terrible tragedy. Most importantly, I would like to give Officers Gibson and Chestnut my gratitude. It was once said that, "gratitude is the memory of the heart." Therefore, my heart goes to Officers Gibson and Chestnut with the utmost gratitude.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the resolution agreed to yesterday to remember and honor the lives of two American heroes, Detective John Michael Gibson and Private First Class Jacob Joseph Chestnut of the United States Capitol Police.

Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson died in the line of duty last Friday while courageously protecting Members of Congress, congressional staff and visitors to the U.S. Capitol. Their heroic actions, and those of other U.S. Capitol Police officers, saved countless lives—including my Health Subcommittee staff, two interns in my office, and a family from my congressional district visiting Washington, D.C.

We cannot forget that the men and women of the U.S. Capitol Police put their lives on the line every day for us. They are dedicated professionals who protect our nation's foremost symbol of freedom and democracy. More important, they protect our lives, those of our staff, and the millions of tourists who visit the Capitol each year.

Detective Gibson and Officer Chestnut are heroes. Their selfless act of courage exemplifies the valor, dedication, and professionalism of the men and women who serve on the U.S. Capitol Police force. As the resolution before us so eloquently states, "those who guard the Capitol guard our freedom."

I extend my deepest sympathies to the families of these two guardians of freedom and all of the officers of the U.S. Capitol Police. Although words are little solace, I hope their families and colleagues will take comfort in the admiration and respect of a grateful nation for these fallen heroes. May they rest in peace.

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, as a former law enforcement officer, I understand the pain and difficulty associated with the continuation of lives without fathers and husbands, brothers and friends. As I was a sheriff before coming to Congress, I keep up my contacts with other law enforcement types, both here and back in Texas.

So I knew both officers who died in the brief combat inside the doors of our Nation's Capitol, and my staff and I mourn their loss, along with their families, and their extended families here on Capitol Hill in the larger family of Congress.

I know this: There is nothing that either of these officers would have wanted more than

to fulfill their mission and be hailed by the institution they served, as well as their country, as heroes for democracy. That is an honor of the highest order. Those of us who walk these hallways each day understand the perils we face at the end of the 20th century. There is no grand military conflict consuming the world today.

Yet the minds of some of our citizens are badly tormented, to the point that they believe they can only resolve that conflict by doing damage to their government. This man was not an enemy of the state \* \* \* he was mentally disturbed. What was fundamentally different about him was that he carried a gun and apparently had no fear of being killed in an attempt to violate this sacred building.

We cannot protect this building, nor the people who work here, from the evil in the minds of individuals who are unafraid to die and have the nerve to rush a security checkpoint with a gun. This is a democracy in pursuit of life, liberty and happiness. If we lock off elected officials from those they govern, our democracy will come out of this tragedy a little weaker.

Democracy is not easy. It has never been easy. For those people who work for the Federal Government, this particular time in history is occasionally dangerous. We all know it. It was never more apparent than in 1995 when a fanatic blew up the Oklahoma City Federal building. It is part of our consciousness, but we know that if we let them dictate how we behave, the bad guys win.

I won't stand for that. My colleagues in this hallowed hall won't stand for that. Officers Jacob Chestnut and John Gibson didn't stand for that, and they laid down their lives as they were trained to do to protect the civilians who inhabited the building at the moment the gunfight broke out. They gave the last full measure of devotion to their country and to this institution they were sworn to protect.

My personal thanks today to the officers, and to their families, for standing firm on that thin blue line.

Mr. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my deepest sympathy and condolences to the families of Jacob Chestnut and John Gibson, the two brave officers who sacrificed their lives to protect the lives of hundreds of others visiting this sacred symbol of freedom. No words can begin to ease the pain and suffering that the Chestnut and Gibson families are feeling at this moment. I hope, however, that these grieving families can take some solace in the outpouring of love and support from grateful Members, staff, fellow police officers, and citizens from across this country.

The bravery and sacrifice exhibited by these officers are characteristics of the entire Capitol Hill Police Force. Far too often, all of us take their work in protecting these grounds for granted. We forget that in a moments notice someone intending to cause harm to others can disrupt the order and normalcy that many of us have come to expect as we work here. It is during this time that we depend on those brave men and women who work to ensure that the Capitol remains a safe haven for those working and visiting. Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson did not let us down. At the first sign of trouble, both officers intervened and took the appropriate action. As a result of their selfless and heroic actions, I am confident that many were spared injury or death.

Mr. Speaker, it is highly appropriate to see these heroes be given the ultimate tribute of lying in honor in the Rotunda of the building where they served, protected, and perished. No one deserves this honor more than Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson. May God bless each of them.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Officer Jacob Chestnut and Detective John Gibson who valiantly gave their lives this past Friday, July 24, in the Capitol. If it were not for the courage and composure which they displayed in the face of mortal danger, more lives may have been lost. Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson made the greatest sacrifice that a human can make in order to save the people that were working in or visiting the Capitol. We are forever in their debt and will not forget their bravery and valor.

Both Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson were husbands and both were fathers. I know that these moments are difficult ones for their wives and children and that words are unlikely to ease their pain. They should know, however, that they are in my prayers and are in the hearts of all Members of this Congress and of all the American people. What these officers did will not be forgotten. They placed the lives of others above their own, and for that they are heroes. Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson did not die in vain; they died honorably, saving the people that they had sworn to protect.

Friday's attack on the Capitol was a surprise and a shock that has left everyone shaken. It was a tragic incident without any known motivation. Though we may not be able to understand what prompted it we can ensure that the Capitol remains guarded by dedicated officers who make it a safe place in which to work and visit.

Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I ask you and my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Detective John Gibson and Officer Jacob Chestnut. They were good men who were loved dearly by their families and who were respected deeply by those who worked with them. They are true heroes whose courageous actions will always be remembered. Moreover, for those who knew them and interacted with them on a daily basis, their loss is deep. Detective Gibson and Officer Chestnut have moved us with their deeds. In protecting the lives of others, they gave their own.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise both with grief and with pride in support of House Concurrent Resolution 311. Like all of my colleagues and, indeed, like all Americans, I am grieving over the tragic, violent deaths on Friday of two valiant U.S. Capitol Police Officers, Private First Class Jacob Joseph Chestnut and Detective John Michael Gibson. And I am proud of these two heroes, members of our Capitol Hill family, who made the paramount sacrifice by giving their lives to protect the Members, staff, and guests of this Congress.

Mr. Speaker, J.J. Chestnut and John Gibson were special men every day. They loved their families and their jobs. They were courteous and friendly, generous and professional. On Friday, they did what they had to do, what they were trained to do, and became heroes. Their deaths leave tremendous holes in the fabric of our lives.

These crimes were particularly alarming because they took place inside the Capitol building, the People's House, which is and must always remain open to the public, and where people expect to be safe. Witness after witness, tourist after tourist told the press that they had never imagined they would hear gunfire here.

But, Mr. Speaker, the heroism of J.J. Chestnut and John Gibson demonstrate that the Capitol is safe. It may not be challenged very often, but on this terrible Friday the security system worked. Two officers gave their lives and many others responded swiftly and capably to protect the public and apprehend the gunman, but only one visitor was wounded. Without our Capitol Police Officers' professionalism, readiness, and training, and their heroic responses to a terrible threat, the harm would undoubtedly have been much greater.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to extend my condolences to the wives and children, other family members, neighbors, and friends of J.J. Chestnut and John Gibson and to assure them that we share their sorrow over their loss, and that they are in our thoughts and our prayers. They, too, are heroes, who every day sent their loved ones to work, never certain they would return. They, too, have paid an enormous price for the safety of Members, staff, and visitors to the Capitol.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution, like House Concurrent Resolution 310 passed yesterday, is necessary and appropriate, and I urge all my colleagues to support it.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the heroic courage displayed by Officer Jacob Chestnut and Special Agent John Gibson during Friday's violent episode that took place in our nation's Capitol.

These two brave men, in the ultimate act of selfless defense of others, put themselves in harm's way to protect the public, members and staff in the United States Capitol building. Through their heroic actions, they averted a potentially more tragic situation. These two men are a tribute and a testament to law enforcement officers everywhere who risk their lives daily to defend the citizens of this nation.

In light of this grave tragedy, let us not be swayed from keeping our nation's Capitol open to the people. Let us also recognize this tragedy as a harsh reminder of the price we sometimes pay for freedom in our country. We are grateful for these men who, in the ultimate sacrifice, gave their lives in the defense of others. We are thankful for the law enforcement officers who risk their lives in the defense of freedom in our country and pay tribute to those who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

I offer our deepest gratitude to the officers who work day in and day out for the protection of the citizens of this nation and I offer my deepest sympathies to the families of these two heroes, Officer Chestnut and Special Agent Gibson. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Chestnut and Gibson families.

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my fellow colleagues to honor both Detective John Gibson and Officer Jacob Chestnut, who selflessly gave their lives in the protection of this Capitol and all those who work and visit here.

Mr. Speaker, it's easy to overlook the efforts of those who protect and serve on these grounds. It's easy to overlook because they do their jobs with the greatest efficiency and pro-

fessionalism every hour of every day, all year long. This past Friday, we were all reminded of just how important a part these brave men and women play in protecting this "House of the People."

Mr. Speaker, we were also reminded that there is often a price to pay for the freedom we enjoy in this great nation. Every day, thousands of men and women across this nation risk their lives to protect and to serve. Police, firefighters, military personnel—all have committed their lives to protecting others.

This past Friday, Detective Gibson and Officer Chestnut did more than protect Members of Congress, congressional staff and visiting tourists—these two men gave their lives to protect our very unique form of government. They gave their lives so this building could remain open, accessible and safe for all Americans to participate in their democracy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that every American keep the families of Detective Gibson and Officer Chestnut in their daily prayers and thoughts. Both of these men are genuine heroes whose selfless and courageous deeds will not be soon forgotten.

I commend my colleagues who have joined in support of a resolution which authorizes the establishment of a fund to provide financial support to the families of these two men. I hope those that wish to help these families will do so by contacting the United States Capitol Police Memorial Fund, Washington, DC 20515.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, we gather today to honor two men in a way that has been reserved for presidents and military heroes.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting that we would honor the two slain Capitol Police officers as only 26 other Americans have been recognized. Jacob Chestnut and John Gibson were heroes. They chose to place themselves in harm's way every day they came to work. And in that awful moment last Friday, they did not flinch from making the ultimate sacrifice to protect co-workers, friends, and even complete strangers.

They were more than just officers, though. They were husbands, fathers, and a grandfather. We grieve with their families, mourning their loss and ours.

Jacob Chestnut and John Gibson were part of the "thin blue line" that runs through every community in America. As we remember their heroism this week, let us not forget that their colleagues—here at the Capitol and in law enforcement agencies throughout the nation—still stand ready to protect and to serve. And let us appreciate the contributions they make—and the risks they take—each day when they put on that uniform.

As Ronald Reagan said, "those who say we don't have heroes anymore just don't know where to look." We lost two of those heroes on Friday.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two men who gave their lives in defense of freedom—Officer J.J. Chestnut and Special Agent John Gibson. They will be deeply missed by all who had the great privilege of knowing them.

As one of my colleagues so eloquently stated, we are the land of the free because we are the home of the brave. Last Friday, our freedom was preserved by the bravery of Officers Chestnut and Gibson, when a deranged gunman tried to invade the People's House.

These two heroes were both dedicated family men. Officer Chestnut's wife, Wen Ling, and their children—Joseph, Janece, Janet, Karen, and William—and Officer Gibson's wife, Evelyn, and their children—Kristen, John, and Daniel—should know that their husbands, their fathers, each served his country with the utmost dedication and honor. They will not be forgotten.

The men and women of the Capitol Police are dedicated to preserving and protecting the People's House. They put their lives on the line for us—Members of Congress, our staffs, and each American who comes to visit our great Capitol—every day.

Through their selfless act of bravery, Officers Chestnut and Gibson saved the lives of countless Members, staff, and tourists who were working in and walking through the Capitol last Friday. We literally owe our lives to them.

I know that the House, Senate, and indeed the entire nation joins me in expressing our deepest sympathies and prayers for the families of Officer Chestnut and Special Agent Gibson. These two men are true American heroes.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, in honor of the memory of John Michael Gibson and Jacob Joseph Chestnut, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 392, nays 0, answered "present" 1, not voting 41, as follows:

[Roll No. 342]

YEAS—392

Abercrombie	Boyd	Cunningham
Ackerman	Brady (PA)	Danner
Aderholt	Brady (TX)	Davis (FL)
Allen	Brown (CA)	Davis (IL)
Andrews	Brown (FL)	Davis (VA)
Armey	Brown (OH)	Deal
Bachus	Bryant	DeFazio
Baesler	Bunning	DeGette
Baker	Burr	Delahunt
Baldacci	Callahan	DeLauro
Ballenger	Calvert	DeLay
Barcia	Camp	Deutsch
Barr	Campbell	Diaz-Balart
Barrett (NE)	Canady	Dickey
Barrett (WI)	Capps	Dingell
Bartlett	Cardin	Dixon
Barton	Carson	Doggett
Bass	Castle	Dooley
Bateman	Chabot	Doolittle
Becerra	Chambliss	Doyle
Bentsen	Chenoweth	Dreier
Bereuter	Christensen	Duncan
Berman	Clay	Dunn
Berry	Clayton	Edwards
Bilbray	Clement	Ehlers
Billirakis	Clyburn	Ehrlich
Bishop	Coble	Emerson
Blagojevich	Coburn	Engel
Bliley	Collins	English
Blumenauer	Combest	Ensign
Blunt	Cook	Eshoo
Boehrlert	Cooksey	Etheridge
Boehner	Costello	Everett
Bonilla	Cox	Ewing
Bonior	Coyne	Farr
Bono	Crane	Fattah
Borski	Crapo	Fawell
Boswell	Cubin	Fazio
Boucher	Cummings	Filner